

PADDY.

PADDY MANURING TRIALS.

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The manuring trials were repeated on the Katugastota fields during 1924-1925 Maha season. The following are the results. It will be observed that the yields are below those obtained the previous year, but it has to be remembered that the Maha of 1923-1924 was an exceptionally good paddy season and all *Goda kumburas* like the one at Katugastota gave good returns.

Plot A. size approximately 39 acre.

Manured with $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. Ephos phosphate on 6.10.24

Yield 1924-1925—19 bushels or 54 bushels per acre

„ 1923-1924— 78 $\frac{1}{2}$ „ „ „

Plot B. size approximately 29 acre.

$\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. Ephos phosphate applied on 9.10.24

Yield 1924-1925— 16 bushels or 55 bushels per acre

„ 1923-1924 80.4 „ „ „

Plot C. size approximately 31 acre.

$\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. Ephos phosphate applied on 6.10.24

Yield 1924-1925—19 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels or 59 bushels per acre

„ 1923-1924 67 $\frac{1}{2}$ „ „ „

Plot D. Control. size of plot, 24 acre.

Yield 1924-1925—13 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels or 56 bushels per acre

„ 1923-1924 72 $\frac{3}{4}$ „ „ „

Plot E. size approximately 38 acre.

Manured with $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. Bone meal on 7.10.24

Yield 1924-1925—24 bushels or 63 bushels per acre

„ 1923-1924 84 $\frac{1}{2}$ „ „ „

Plot F. size approximately 40 acre.

$\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of Bone meal applied on 9.10.24

Yield 1924-1925—24 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels or 60 bushels per acre

„ 1923-1924 65 „ „ „

Plot G. size approximately 24 acre.

$\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of Bone meal applied on 7.10.24

Yield 1924-1925—17 bushels or 75 bushels per acre

„ 1923-1924 87 $\frac{1}{2}$ „ „ „

Plot H. Control, size approximately 28 acre.

Yield 1924-1925—14 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels or 52 bushels per acre

„ 1923-1924 77 „ „ „

All these plots were transplanted from 6th to 12th October, 1924, with seedlings of Hathiel, and were harvested from 28th February to 5th March, 1925.

At the time of flowering there was rain and consequently there was found to be a large percentage of empty grains.

Compared with the season 1923-1924 the growth in 1924-1925 was poorer.

In plots A. B. E. and F. there was better tillering than in the others.

Though there has been a falling off in the yield of paddy as compared with the previous year's crops it will be observed that the yields from the various plots compare favourably with one another clearly indicating that $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of manure on $\frac{1}{4}$ acre is much better than $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. on larger plots.

In the above figures there are sure to be great field errors but the object of the trials was to demonstrate to the villager that manuring is beneficial.

THINNER SEED RATE IN PADDY CULTIVATION.

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During the Maha season of 1924-1925 the following, among other trials, were carried out, and the results are now published as they appear to be interesting, in view of the fact that in Ceylon far too much seed is sown on paddy fields.

The trials were carried out in Kondedeniya village, near Katugastota.

An extent of approximately half an acre or a *pela* in extent, was divided into two plots of equal size.

One plot was transplanted with six weeks old seedlings of selected Hathi on the 9th of October, planting at the rate of 2 or 3 seedlings 4 to 6 inches apart. Instead of using 5 lahas for raising the necessary seedlings for this extent of field as is the practice among local paddy cultivators only 4 lahas were used thus effecting a reduction of 20% in the seed.

The other plot was sown broadcast with the same type of paddy on 28th August, and the same reduction of seed was made here too.

The broadcasted field was harvested on February 28th, 1925, and the transplanted plot on March 6th. The yield from the transplanted plot was $12\frac{1}{2}$ bushels or 49 bushels per acre. The yield from the broadcasted plot was $9\frac{1}{2}$ bushels or 38 bushels per acre.

Compared with the yields of adjoining fields of transplanted and broadcasted paddy of the same type these results were in no wise different, thus clearly indicating that the existing seed rate in paddy can be reduced with advantage.

In this locality there are about 300 acres of paddy on which according to the prevailing practice 600 bushels of paddy are sown. If the seed rate can be reduced by 20%—it can be reduced by a much larger margin—a saving of 120 bushels of paddy in a season can be effected. With the gradual introduction of Pure Line paddy and the practice of transplanting becoming more general there are the possibilities of reducing the seed rate by 50% when transplanting is carried out and by 20% to 30% when broadcasting. The paddy cultivator has begun to realise that a saving of seed can be effected and there are in this locality many instances this Maha season where the 20% reduction has taken place.